

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

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P R 150849Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2662

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM PINT KS

SUBJ: SUPREME COURT DECISION ON MYONGDONG CASE REPORTEDLY NEAR

REF: SEOUL 0045 AND PREVIOUS

1. PAK SE-KYONG, A KEY MEMBER OF DEFENSE TEAM OF LAWYERS FOR MYONGDONG DEFENDANTS, TOLD EMBASSY LOCAL EMPLOYEE THAT HE HAD BEEN NOTIFIED THAT SUPREME COURT WOULD ISSUE DECISION ON CASE ON TUESDAY, MARCH 22. DECISION EARLIER THAN EXPECTED, SINCE COURT NOT REQUIRED BY LAW TO PRONOUNCE ITSELF UNTIL APRIL 29.

2. PAK SAID COURT WOULD ALSO GIVE DECISION ON APPEAL OF FORMER PRESIDENT YUN PO-SUN'S CONVICTION FOR VIOLATING EMERGENCY MEASURE NUMBER 4. THIS CONVICTION, STEMMING FROM CHARGES YUN HAD ASSISTED FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC YOUTH AND STUDENTS, RESULTED IN YUN'S BEING SENTENCED ON AUGUST 12, 1974 TO THREE YEARS AT HARD LABOR ALTHOUGH EXECUTION OF SENTENCE WAS SUSPENDED. COURT WAS UNDER NO TIME LIMIT TO ACT ON THIS CASE, SINCE DEFENDANT WAS NOT IMPRISONED AS RESULT OF LOWER COURT DECISION.

3. ALTHOUGH THEY BELIEVE THAT MYONGDONG DEFENDANTS WILL

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EVENTUALLY RECEIVE CLEMENCY, OBSERVERS IN HUMAN RIGHTS CIRCLES DO NOT BELIEVE IT WILL COME FROM THE COURTS, ESPECIALLY IN THIS PERIOD WHEN THE ROKG SEEMS ANXIOUS TO DISCOURAGE THE OUTBREAK OF EVEN THE SMALLEST ANTI-GOVERNMENT MANIFESTATIONS AND WHEN THE ROKG HAS ASSUMED A STERN, NO-NONSENSE STANCE TOWARD DISSIDENTS IN ORDER MINIMIZE POTENTIAL CHALLENGES TO PUBLIC ORDER.

STERN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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